

# **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANAGING CONFIGURATION OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS ON A COMPUTER NETWORK**

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system configuration manager provides a graphical user interface that allows a  
5 system administrator to easily administer configuration settings for different computer  
systems and platforms on a computer network. The system configuration manager of the  
present invention allows identifying one system configuration or a settings profile as a  
“model system”. Once the model system is defined, other computer systems may be  
compared to the model system. Differences between the selected computer systems and  
10 the model system are then displayed, and the system configuration manager may be used  
to update the selected computer systems with configuration settings specified in the  
model system. Cross-platform support is provided by a configuration mapping  
mechanism that maps configuration information from one platform to corresponding  
configuration information for another platform. The configuration mapping mechanism  
15 effectively hides the differences between platforms by translating the configuration  
information from a selected platform to corresponding configuration information for the  
model system.